

South Precinct Email Community Newsletter
March 6, 2009



Dear Community Friends,

Recent Burglary Arrests

In recent weeks, South Precinct officers have made significant burglary arrests. In some cases, the burglars were caught in the home. In others, the burglars were located on the street, detained by officers and identified by witnesses. And in others, police were able to apprehend one burglar who then gave up information on the others that were with him.

These burglars were not part of *one* organized crew, but several different groups of (typically) teenage males. These recent arrests are helping us close the books on a number of burglaries. One group of burglars admitted to committing four burglaries, where another admitted to committing 15 burglaries.

We want to emphasize is that these burglars were caught because of alert and involved neighbors.

- Those who saw suspicious people walking into a neighbor's backyard and called 911.
- Neighbors who actually saw the burglars in their neighbor's home and called 911.
- Neighbors who were willing to go with police to positively identify the suspects they saw.

These recent arrests prove that vigilance works. Be observant and pay attention to what's happening in your neighborhood and who's out and about in your area. For those of you who work from home or are home during daylight hours, take a look around every now and then and see what's happening on your block. Being conspicuously alert makes potential offenders nervous and will tend to make them seek a place where they have less risk of being seen, identified or caught.

We want to thank **you** for helping us get these burglars off the street.

Home Security Tips

- Close and lock all doors and windows (even second story windows) when you are away from home.
- Trim shrubbery around the exterior of your home or business to improve lines of sight (to make it easier for your neighbors to see activity at your place).
- Make sure every exterior door to your home includes a steel security plate and extended (3"-4") screws in the strike plates that sink in to the framing around the door.
- For French doors, ensure they have floor and ceiling bolts that extend at least one inch into the floor and the upper doorframe, respectively.
- Secure all tools - including ladders - to ensure they cannot be used to gain entry into your (or someone else's) home. Use a chain and padlock to secure the ladders (not just to themselves); secure them to a post/railing/banister, etc.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number so that it can be identified in the event of theft. Engraving property is also a deterrent; if thieves see the property is engraved, they are less likely to take it. For those items you cannot engrave, take a photo so you can positively identify them. This includes GPS systems, iPods, digital cameras, etc.; not just TVs, DVRs and laptops. Whether you engrave the item or take a picture of it, record the serial number of the item for positive identification. Make an inventory list of your valuable items; keep it someplace secure.

Malicious Harassment Incidents Update

For several months, the Muslim Youth Academy (located at the old Rainier View Elementary School) had experienced numerous acts of vandalism, property damage and harassment that had a biased crime nature. Derogatory racial, religious and ethnic incidents had been reported. Due to some great teamwork between our South Precinct Patrol Officers, Community Police Team, Crime Analysis Detective and Crime Prevention Coordinator, patrol officers contacted and interviewed five juvenile subjects and got an accounting for nearly every incident of malicious harassment that occurred at the school. We want to acknowledge the great work of all those involved.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe! Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator